

# Supplement

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## Literature Review: papers and notes on African birds in 1994

Compiled by Peter Lack

This review, which it is hoped will be produced annually, is intended to cover all literature relating to birds in Africa. For this first one no papers or notes with a publication date prior to 1994 are included, but in future it is intended to carry on where the previous one left off. All journals received by the end of the first week of January 1995 are included here.

I have tried to be as complete as possible in covering papers and notes relevant to members of the Club. A wide range of journals, magazines and newsletters has been scanned and I have tried to include all new observations etc. However, articles reporting on, for example, society and bird club trip reports and notes on birding other than in Africa have been ignored.

The style and content is based very much on the lines of the Recent Ornithological Literature Supplement to *Ibis*, *Auk* and *Emu* to which everyone interested in birds owes a great debt.

I am well aware that some people publish material in journals which I am at present unable to see on a regular basis and I therefore apologise if there are any serious omissions. The editorial team would like this section of *Bull ABC* to become the major source of information about African birds, and we therefore urge you and your colleagues to send us reprints of relevant material, or at least bring it to our attention, especially any in journals not in the attached list. Items from 1994 and missing from this year can be included in subsequent years as will, of course, material published late in the year which did not reach us in time.

The papers noted below do not include those published in the two volumes of Proceedings of Pan-African Ornithological Congresses which appeared during 1994. These will be mentioned in the September issue of the *Bull ABC* in association with an extended article about the Congresses to date and the one to be

held in December 1996 in Ghana.

The following major journals and magazines have been scanned for this issue:

*African Bird Journals*: Babbler, Bee-Eater, Bird Numbers, Birding in Southern Africa, East Africa Natural History Society Bulletin, Honeyguide, Journal of East Africa Natural History Society and National Museum, Kenya Birds, Malimbus, Mirafr, Ostrich, SAFRING News, Scopos.

*International Bird Journals*: *Alauda*, *Ardea*, *Auk*, Bird Conservation International, Bird Study, Birding World, British Birds, Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, Condor, Dutch Birding, Le Gerfaut, Ibis, Journal of Avian Biology, Journal für Ornithologie, Limosa, Nos Oiseaux, Ornithologische Beobachter, Ringing & Migration, Seabird, Die Vogelwarte, Die Vogelwelt, Wader Study Group Bulletin, Wilson Bulletin.

*General Ecology and Behaviour Journals*: Animal Behaviour, Conservation Biology, Journal of Animal Ecology, Journal of Applied Ecology, Journal of Wildlife Management, Oikos.

In addition, papers in other journals and magazines have been included when I have noticed them or had them brought to my attention.

The papers are divided into sections below, broadly on their main subject matter. I am well aware that any division of this kind is, by definition, somewhat arbitrary so please do look in all relevant sections for some topics. Overlap is particularly prevalent between the General Biology, Ecology and Conservation, and Behaviour sections.

Where there are several authors either the address of the first is given or that specified for correspondence, if different. Also, present addresses are given, as appropriate.

### Distribution: Eastern Africa

**Archer A.L. 1994.** Birds observed from Kigoma to Kalambo Falls on the eastern side of Lake Tanganyika. *Scopus* 18: 6-11. (Box 15676, Nairobi, Kenya)

Notes on the species seen 20 September to 15 October 1993.

**Atkins J.D. 1994.** An isolated population of the Olive-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia chloropygia* in Ethiopia. (With an additional comment from J.S. Ash) *Scopus* 18: 54-56. (c/o Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH, UK)

In February 1993 near Tepi in southwest Ethiopia.

**Atkins J.D. & Harvey W.G. 1994.** Further sightings of an unnamed cliff swallow *Hirundo* sp. in Ethiopia. *Scopus* 18: 52-54. (address as above)

Further observations, mostly in Awash National Park, of a cliff swallow most closely resembling South African *Hirundo spilodera*. Vigilance and all notes of such birds are requested.

**Baker N.E. 1994.** The status of the Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus* in Tanzania. *Scopus* 18: 58-59. (Box 23404, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania)

Questions all records of the species from the Ruaha National Park area. Are there any real ones?

**Baker N.E. & Baker E.M. 1994.** Further records for the Taita Falcon *Falco fasciinnucha* from Tanzania. *Scopus* 18: 57-58. (Box 23404, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania)

Three new records: Njombe in October 1983, 30 km north of Kilosa in December 1989 and in Ukaguru Mountains in December 1993.

**Bradley J. 1994.** African Pitta *Pitta angolensis* at Jadini, Kenya coast. *Scopus* 18: 56-57. (Box 39814, Nairobi, Kenya)

An adult on 17 October 1993 was very obliging.

**Butynski T. 1994.** Uluguru Violet-backed Sunbirds *Anthreptes neglectus* at Tana, Kenya. *Scopus* 18: 62-64. (Zoo Atlanta / National Museums of Kenya, Box 40658, Nairobi, Kenya)

Two records from forests of Lower Tana River at Kitere in February and June 1994.

**Cordeiro N.J. 1994.** Forest birds on Mt Kilimanjaro. *Scopus* 17: 65-112. (3145 Canfield Avenue, #13, Los Angeles, CA 90034, USA)

An up-to-date list of forest-dependent birds recorded with notes on natural history, ecology, behaviour, breeding and conservation.

**Dijkzen L.J. 1994.** Ethiopian birds. *Dutch Birding* 16: 71-72. (Tembien Health Program, c/o REST, PO Box 20, Makelle, Ethiopia)

Points out that with the split-off of Eritrea the number of Ethiopian endemics is only nine or ten.

**Evans T.D., Watson L.G., Hipkiss A.J., Kiure J., Timmins R.J. & Perkin A.W. 1994.** New records of Sokoke Scops Owl *Otus ireneae*, Usambara Eagle Owl *Bubo vosseleri* and East Coast Akalat *Sheppardia gunningi* from Tanzania. *Scopus* 18: 40-47. (11a Yeoman Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4BX, UK)

New records of the three threatened forest birds in Sigi Muse valley (five sites) and Mtwapa Public Land in July to September 1992 and September to October 1993 with detailed notes.

**Fanshawe J. & Ngala D. 1994.** First East African nesting record for the Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* from Galana, Coast Province, Kenya. *Scopus* 18: 49-50. (c/o BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK)

December 1991 west of Baricho near Galana River.

**Forbes-Watson A.D. 1994.** Bird surveys of three reserves in northwestern Uganda. *Scopus* 17: 128-137. (c/o Box 48019, Nairobi, Kenya)

January and February 1992 surveys of Mt Kei White Rhino Sanctuary, Otze Forest White Rhino Sanctuary and Zoka Forest Reserve. Species lists and added notes for those of special interest.

**Glen R.M. 1994.** Notes and new distribution records of the Quail Plover *Ortyxelos meiffreni*. *Scopus* 18: 50-51. (Box 40691, Nairobi, Kenya)

28 records from Kitani area of Tsavo West National Park, Kenya and 1 from Tarangire National Park, Tanzania. A few behavioural notes included.

**Hipkiss A.J., Watson L.G. & Evans T.D. 1994.** Preliminary report on 'The Cambridge-Tanzania rainforest project 1992': brief account of ornithological results and conservation proposals. *Ibis* 136: 107-108. (41 Burlington Road, Polyton, Southampton SO1 2FR, UK)

Six lowland forests in East Usambaras surveyed. Six globally threatened and three near-threatened birds found including new sites for Sokoke Scops Owl *Otus ireneae* and East Coast Akalat *Sheppardia gunningi*.

**Keith S. & Garrett K.L. 1994.** Oberländer's Ground Thrush *Zoothera oberlanderi* in the Impenetrable Forest, Uganda. *Scopus* 17: 141-142. (American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, USA)

A considerable extension of range based on a specimen in Los Angeles County Museum from 1969 originally identified as *Z. piaggae williamsi*. Latter remains on list for Impenetrable Forest.

**Lack P.C. 1994.** Three-streaked Tchagra *Tchagra jamesi*: a new record for Tanzania. *Scopus* 17: 140-141. (British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU, UK)

Nine seen in Mkomazi Game Reserve in July and August 1993. Brief notes on habitat selection of three *Tchagra* species in area.

**Moyer D.C. & Schulenberg T.S. 1994.** First record of Chirping Cisticola *Cisticola cisticola pipiens* from Burundi. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 63-64. (Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, USA)

In a marshy area near Bujumbura representing a northwards extension of 800 km from Upfipa in Tanzania and 550 km from Marungu Highlands of Zaïre across Lake Tanganyika. May well be quite widespread in general area.

**Parker I.S.C. 1994.** Notes on *Catharacta* sp., *Sterna bergii*, *S. fuscata*, *Puffinus pacificus* and *P. lherminieri* off Mtwapa, December 1992. *Scopus* 17: 138. (Box 15093, Nairobi, Kenya)

Records of the above species detailed.

**Ryall C. 1994.** Recent extensions of range in the House Crow *Corvus splendens*. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 90-100. (Farnborough College of Technology, Boundary Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6SB, UK)

Expanding rapidly around human habitations and are a major pest in some areas. Now in 9 African mainland countries as well as Seychelles and Mauritius.

**Ryall C. 1994.** Bird observations on Wasini Island, Kenya. *Scopus* 18: 34-39. (address as above)

Casual observations from four visits in 1985-1987 extend range of several species and these related briefly to habitats present.

**Sellempo E. 1994.** Birds recorded from the Loliendo area of northern Tanzania. *Scopus* 17: 124-128. (Box 48019, Nairobi, Kenya)

Report of a visit in May-June 1993 with several birds of noteworthy distributional interest.

## Distribution: North Africa

**Baha El Din M. 1994.** African Pied Wagtail breeding at Lake Nasser, Egypt. *Birding World* 7: 186. (no address given)  
Four pairs of *Motacilla aguimp* found on islets in lake in May 1994. Population could actually be quite high.

**Bellatreche M. 1994.** Données nouvelles sur l'avifaune Algérienne. *Alauda* 62: 136-138. (Université de Bourgogne, Faculté de Sciences de la Vie, Laboratoire d'écologie, Batiment "Mirande", BP 138, F-21004 Dijon cedex, France)

Records since 1981 updating Ledant *et al* (*Le Gerfaut* 71: 295-398) of 9 species.

**Delprat B. 1994.** Observation d'une pie-grièche à poitrine rose *Lanius minor* en Tunisie. *Alauda* 62: 133. (11 rue de l'hirondelle, F-34130 Saint-Aunès, France)  
In November 1993 near Menzel Bourguiba on the banks of Lake Ichkeul.

**Meininger P.L., Wolf P.A., Hadoud D.A. & Essghaier M.F.A. 1994.** Rediscovery of Lesser Crested Terns breeding in Libya. *Brit. Birds* 87: 160-170. (Foundation Working Group International Wader and Waterfowl Research (WIWO), c/o Driebergseweg 16c, 3708 JB, Zeist, Netherlands)

Two colonies of *Sterna bengalensis* located in July 1993 at Geziret al Elba (40 pairs) and Geziret Garah (1700 pairs). Some data on breeding biology, habitat, food and threats.

**Ullman M. 1994.** Crested and Thekla Larks in Morocco. *Dutch Birding* 16: 19-20. (Iliongränd K:104, 22471 Lund, Sweden)

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*s scarce and Thekla *G. theklae* quite common in Morocco although the reverse is true in Tunisia. The two are best distinguished by proportions and size.

## Distribution: Southern Africa

**Abernethy D. & Herremans M. 1994.** Report from the records subcommittee. *Babbler* 26-27: 38-47. (Botswana Bird Club, PO Box 71, Gaborone, Botswana)

A detailed list of accepted category A (rare) and B (near rarities) in Botswana from 1988 onwards.

**Alexander S. 1994.** Pittas in the Chizarira National Park. *Honeyguide* 40: 27-28. (Zambezi Wilderness Safaris, PO Box 18, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe)

*Pitta angolensis* heard and seen in December and January of two years and a nest found from the previous year.

**Anderson M.D. 1994.** Large raft of Blacknecked Grebes at Kamfers Dam, Kimberley. *Mirafra* 11: 6. (Cape Nature Conservation & Museums, Private Bag X6102, Kimberley 8300, South Africa)  
889 *Podiceps nigricollis* recorded in November 1991.

**Anderson M.D. 1994.** New wing-feather moulting location for South African Shelduck. *Mirafra* 11: 16-17. (Cape Nature Conservation & Museums, Private Bag X6102, Kimberley 8300, South Africa)

Spitskop Dam in northern Cape Province found as moulting site for *Tadorna cana*. Nearly 2000 recorded in November 1992 and 2451 in November 1993 (at least 1757 were moulting).

**Bergman N. & Bergman J. 1994.** First breeding record of Namaqua Sandgrouse in Zimbabwe. *Honeyguide* 40: 25-26. (Manama Hospital, Private Bag G A 5845, Gwanda, Zimbabwe)

Three small chicks of *Pterocles namaquus* found at Fort Tuli on 14 September 1991.

**Bishop D. 1994.** The current status of the Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* in Botswana. *Babbler* 26-27: 10-12. (PO Box 808, Gaborone, Botswana)

Prefers fairly eutrophic wetlands in south east Botswana. Numbers 1991 - 1993 from 30 to 468.

**Du Plessis G.J. 1994.** Coursers in the Kroonstad area, Orange Free State. *Mirafra* 11: 1-5. (PO Box 98, Aliwal North 5530, South Africa)

Atlas data and transect counts give good indications of numbers occurring. Historical records indicate that *Cursorius rufus* has declined considerably, *C. temminckii* is highly nomadic and *C. africanus* may have increased.

**Eriksson M.O.G. 1994.** Waterbird densities at Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe, during a period of extremely low water level in 1984-85. *Honeyguide* 40: 4-15. (Provincial Government in Göteborgs och Bohus län, Department of Environmental Protection, S-40340, Göteborg, Sweden)

Low water level may contribute to the lack of clear differences between fished and non-fished areas. For fish-eating birds encounter rate perhaps more important than fish abundance.

**Hanmer D.B. 1994.** Cut-throat Finch near Mutare. *Honeyguide* 40: 100-101. (Box 3076, Paulington, Mutare, Zimbabwe)

A male *Amadina fasciata* was caught and ringed on 19 September 1993, perhaps brought in by dry conditions along with Violet-eared Waxbill *Uraeginthus granatinus*.

**Herremans M. 1994.** Major concentration of River Warblers *Locustella fluviatilis* wintering in northern Botswana. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 24-26. (Dept of Wildlife and National Parks, PO Box 131, Gaborone, Botswana)

In March 1992 found in some numbers in *Baikiaea* woodland in Kasane Forest Reserve, Botswana and probably arrived in area in January.

**Herremans M. 1994.** New record of the Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus* in the Okavango. *Babbler* 26-27: 20-22. (address as above)

Mistnetted at a roost at Maun on 11 August 1993.

**Herremans M., Borello W. & Herremans-Tonnoeyr D. 1994.** New cases of the Spottedbacked Weavers *Ploceus cucullatus* breeding near Gaborone. *Babbler* 26-27: 29-30. (address as above)

Almost certainly young hatched at Gaborone Dam as young caught, although nest not found.

**Herremans M. & Brewster C. 1994.** The status of Ayres' Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii* in Botswana. *Babbler* 26-27: 12-13. (address as above)

A rare non-breeding visitor September to March.

**Herremans M. & Herremans-Tonnoeyr D. 1994.** Massive numbers of European Swifts *Apus apus* over the southwestern Kalahari. *Babbler* 26-27: 33-34. (address as above)

In December 1993.

**Hofmeyr J. 1994.** Palm Swifts possibly nesting at Somerset West. *Bee Eater* 45: 35. (no address given)

Egg shell of *Cypsiurus parvus* found under a palm tree.

**Jones J.M.B. 1994.** Concentration of Larklike Buntings in Kuburi Wilderness, Kariba. *Honeyguide* 40: 31. (PO Box 60, Marondera, Zimbabwe)

Large numbers of *Emberiza impetuani* found in rocky arid areas with sparse vegetation.

**Martin C.G.C., Underhill G.D. & Underhill L.G. 1994.** Garden Warblers *Sylvia borin* in the southwestern Cape Province, South Africa. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 104-106. (Dept of Surveying and Geodetic Engineering, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Three records in suburbs of Cape Town, December 1990 and February 1993 (two) are detailed, all trapped.

**Paolillo K. 1994.** Birds on the Turgwe River, Humani Ranch. *Honeyguide* 40: 103. (Hippo Haven, Humani Ranch, PO Box 322, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe)

Some notes on the occurrence of several species in a period of good rains following a drought.

**Randall R.D. 1994.** Important numbers of African Skimmers *Rynchops flavirostris* on the Chobe River. *Babbler* 26-27: 31. (PO Box 266, Kasane, Botswana)

Up to 47 in a flock near Sedudu Island in October-November 1993.

**Randall R.D. 1994.** Huge flocks of Redwinged Pratincoles *Glareola pratincola* and Brownthroated Martins *Riparia paludicola* near Kasane. *Babbler*

26-27: 33. (PO Box 266, Kasane, Botswana)

Several thousand of both species near Sedudu Island in Chobe River in June 1993.

**Randall R.D. 1994.** Regular observations of Cutthroat Finch *Amadina fasciata* in Kasane. *Babbler* 26-27: 34. (address as above)

They are not uncommon in far north of country, *contra* Newman's book.

**Randall R.D. 1994.** Whitebacked Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus* breeding at Kasane. *Babbler* 26-27: 35. (address as above)

At Chobe Reptile Park in June 1993.

**Riddell I.C. 1994.** Red-necked Falcon and Thick-billed Cuckoo in the Zambezi Valley. *Honeyguide* 40: 31-34. (PO Box 4330, Harare, Zimbabwe)

*Falco chicquera* noted 17 times from July to September around Chikwenya area in Zambezi Valley. *Pachyoccyxa audeberti* noted a number of times in same area probably displaying.

**Rockingham-Gill D.V. & Mundy P.J.**

**1994.** Red-billed Firefinch in the Matetsi Safari Area. *Honeyguide* 40: 100. (PO Box 296, Mhangura, Zimbabwe)

*Lagonosticta senegalensis* in January 1993.

**Taylor B., Smith E. & Herholdt K.**

**1994.** The Striped Crake in southern Africa. *Birding in Southern Africa* 46: 18-21. (Dept of Zoology and Entomology, University of Natal, PO Box 375, Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa)

A review of recent records of *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*.

**Vernon C. 1994.** Status of the Blue Quail in South Africa. *Bee Eater* 45: 41-43. (no address given)

Only 2 records in eastern Cape Province of *Coturnix adansonii* are acceptable, one of which is the only one for South Africa in the last 25 years.

**Williams J. 1994.** Red-backed and Bronze Mannikins and others in the Troutbeck area, Nyanga. *Honeyguide* 40: 101-102. (14 Harare Drive, Greystone Park, Harare, Zimbabwe)

Small party of *Spermestes (Lonchura) bicolor* including a nest site and a single *S.(L.) cucullatus* seen.

**Williams J. & Varden D. 1994.** Lemon-breasted Canary at Nyanga. *Honeyguide* 40: 30. (address as above)

*Serinus citrinipectus* found in October 1993.

## Distribution: West and Central Africa

**Cable T.T. 1994.** First record of Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* in Ivory Coast. *Malimbus* 16: 57-58. (Dept of Forestry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, USA)

One bird seen near Bouaké in a rice field in August 1993, well to the west of any previous record.

**Del Nevo A., Rodwell S., Sim I.M.W., Saunders C.R. & Wacher T. 1994.**

Audouin's Gulls *Larus audouinii* in Senegambia. *Seabird* 16: 57-61. (RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL, UK)

An important wintering area. 531 noted in February 1991 and 276 in September 1992. A high proportion had been ringed at Spanish breeding sites.

**Demey R. & Fishpool L.D.C. 1994.** The birds of Yapo Forest, Ivory Coast. *Malimbus* 16: 100-122. (Grote Peperstraat 3, B-9100 Sint-Niklaas, Belgium)

Annotated checklist of 225 species, including notes on breeding, seasonality, ecology and identification, for 24000 hectares of the largest remaining tract of lowland forest near Abidjan.

**Dickerman R.W., Cane W.P., Carter M.F., Chapman A. & Schmitt C.G. 1994.**

Report on three collections of birds from Liberia. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 267-274. (Dept of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, USA)

Report on specimens which augment knowledge of distribution, status or nomenclature, collected in 1985-1990 from 3 areas of Liberia. Notes on 20 species including descriptions of two new subspecies.

**Farnsworth S.J. 1994.** Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandria* in Mauritania and West Africa. *Malimbus* 16: 124-125. (Hammerkop, Frogmill, Hurley, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5NL, UK)

One seen four km south of Nouakchott on 27 November 1984. Reviews other records.

**Francis I.S., Gartshore M.E., Green M., Penford N. & Ryall C. 1994.** Some

observations of waders and other wetland birds from the Ivory Coast. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 72: 22-24. (c/o RSPB, 10 Albyn Terrace, Aberdeen AB1 1YP, UK)

Records from 7 sites in 1990-91 although rather small numbers involved.

**Germain M. & Cornet J-P. 1994.**

Oiseaux nouveaux par la République Centrafricaine ou dont les notifications de

ce pays sont peu nombreuses. *Malimbus* 16: 30-51. (44 rue Cluseret, 92150 Suresnes, France)

Twelve new records for Central African Republic and information on other recent records especially those of Carroll 1988 (*Malimbus* 10: 177-200) are given.

**Gore M.E.J. 1994.** Bird records from Liberia. *Malimbus* 16: 74-87.

(Government House, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands)

Observations from 1988-1990 of species considered rare or uncommon by Gatter (1988 *Verh. orn. Ges. Bayern* 24: 689-723), including three species new for country: *Passer domesticus*, *Lamprolornis caudatus* and *Ptilostomus afer*.

**Halleux D. 1994.** Annotated bird list of Macenta Prefecture, Guinea. *Malimbus* 16: 10-29. (24 rue de faubourg du Temple, 75011 Paris, France)

319 species noted including 50 new for Guinea, five Red Data Book species, two records of Red-winged Grey Warbler *Drymocichla incana* 1600 km west of known range, and the first description of the nest of Shrike Flycatcher *Megabyas flammulata*.

**Rodewald P.G., Dejaifve P.A. & Green A.A. 1994.** The birds of Korup National

Park and Korup Project Area, Southwest Province, Cameroon. *Bird Conserv. Int.* 4: 1-68. (Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, SCEN 601, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, USA)

390 species known to occur, one of the most diverse lowland forest sites in Africa. Documents records and breeding phenology of several threatened and near-threatened species.

**Salvig J.C., Asbirk S., Kjeldsen J.P. & Rasmussen P.A.F. 1994.** Wintering

waders in the Bijagos archipelago, Guinea-Bissau 1992-1993. *Ardea* 82: 137-141. (National Environmental Research Institute, Department of Wildlife Ecology, Kalø, DK-8410 Ronde, Denmark)

Just over 450,000 waders counted on about 64% of available area of tidal flats giving estimate of 710,000 for whole area. Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (326,500), Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (108,700) and Little Stint *Calidris minuta* (59,700) were the most numerous species counted.

## General Biology

**Andersson S. & Andersson M. 1994.**

Tail ornamentation, size dimorphism and wing length in the genus *Euplectes* (Ploceinae). *Atk* 111: 80-86. (Dept of Zoology, University of Göteborg,

Medicinaregatan 18, S-413 90, Göteborg, Sweden)

Long tails mean long wings (to compensate for drag). 70% of wing dimorphism explained by tail length after controlling for overall size. Bishops were more dimorphic than expected. Cannot use wing length alone for interspecific comparisons of sexual size dimorphism.

**Ash J.S. 1994.** Weights of migrant Palaearctic *Sylvia* warblers in Ethiopia. *Scopus* 17: 119-123. (Godshill Wood, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 2LR, UK)  
Analysis of over 1750 weights of 7 species by month of capture.

**Classen J. 1994.** Beringing van voëls te Renosterkop, Beaufort-Wes. *SAFRING News* 23: 11-17. (Posbus 43, Beaufort-Wes 6970, South Africa)

Results of five years ringing on a farm in Great Karoo involving 251 birds of 31 species. Mensural data often fall outside Roberts's dates.

**Fraser M.W., Ryan P.G., Dean W.R.J., Briggs D.J. & Moloney C.L. 1994.** Biology of the Tristan Thrush *Nesocichla eremita*. *Ostrich* 65: 14-25. (Sandbanks, Kenmuir Steps, Glencairn 7995, South Africa)

General biology of bird based mainly on observations on Inaccessible Island. Gives recommendations for conservation of a species whose total population is likely to be about 6000 birds.

**Haarhoff P. 1994.** Mousebirds: past and present. *Birding in Southern Africa* 46: 93-95. (South African Museum, PO Box 61, Cape Town 8000, South Africa)

Some notes about 124 fossil Coliiformes from Langebaan (South Africa) and 57 from Olduvai (Tanzania).

**Kalejta B. 1994.** Palaearctic shorebirds research in South Africa - past, present and future. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 72: 24-27. (Avian Demography Unit, Department of Statistical Science, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

A follow-up to Les Underhill's review to 1987 (*WSG Bull.* 53: 15-17).

**Van Niekirk D.J. 1994.** Moulting immature male Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni*. *Mirafra* 11: 30-31. (PO Box 7700, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa)

Notes on a few individuals seen.

## Ecology and Conservation

**Akinpelu A.I. 1994.** Moulting and weight cycles in two species of *Lonchura* in Ife-Ife, Nigeria. *Malimbus* 16: 88-93. (Dept of

Zoology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife-Ife, Nigeria)

*Lonchura cucullata* and *L. bicolor* moulted for 183 and 145 days respectively May to October, and reached lowest weights during July and August. Moulting and breeding overlapped in females.

**Allport G.A. & Fanshawe J.R. 1994.** Is the Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti* a forest dependent species in West Africa? *Malimbus* 16: 52-53. (BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK)  
It must be and must also be of conservation concern due to forest fragmentation.

**Borhesio L. & Biddau J. 1994.** Decreases in the waterbird populations at Lake Turkana, Kenya. *Scopus* 18: 12-19. (C. Re Umberto 42, 10128 Torino, Italy)

Results of census February-March 1993 along 165 km of shore on east side previously surveyed in 1987. Large decreases noted in most species, especially Palaearctic migrants, probably caused by local environmental changes.

**Brown C.R. 1994.** Nest microclimate, egg temperature, egg water loss and eggshell conductance in Cape Weavers *Ploceus capensis*. *Ostrich* 65: 26-31. (Dept of Zoology and Entomology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown 6140, South Africa)

Figures for the above suggest that the nest, despite being enclosed, plays little role in regulation of egg water loss during incubation.

**Bruderer B. & Bruderer H. 1994.** Numbers of Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio* in different habitats of South Africa. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 192-202. (Swiss Ornithological Institute, CH-6204, Sempach, Switzerland)

Highest densities recorded in arid savannas of medium coverage and height in Transvaal. Data compared to atlas (SABAP) reporting rates but problems as habitat very patchy as in breeding grounds where densities appear similar.

**Davey P. 1994.** Woodpecker feeding immature honeyguide. *Scopus* 18: 61. (Box 41822, Nairobi, Kenya)

In August 1993 in Masai Mara Game Reserve a pair of Bearded Woodpeckers *Tribptis namaquus* was feeding a fledgling Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus*.

**Dean W.R.J. & Bond W.J. 1994.** Apparent avian extinctions from islands in a man-made lake, South Africa. *Ostrich* 65: 7-13. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of

African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Islands in a 16-year old lake held fewer species than mainland but difference not related to island size. Habitat fragmentation can cause rapid species loss and corridors may be important.

**Du Plessis M.A. & Williams J.B. 1994.** Communal cavity roosting in Green Woodhoopoes: consequences for energy expenditure and seasonal pattern of mortality. *Auk* 111: 292-299. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

*Phoeniculus purpureus* roosting with four other individuals reduces night time energy use by 30% or more when minimum ambient temperature is about 5°C. Such savings associated with winter mortality in colder areas.

**Fasola M., Saino, N., Waiyaki E. & Nasirwa O. 1994.** Palaearctic migrant waterbirds overlap in habitat use with residents at Lake Turkana, Kenya. *Scopus* 18: 20-33. (Dipartimento Biologia Animale, Università di Pavia, Piazza Botta 9, Pavia, Italy)

Reports on community structure and foraging habitat of migrants, partial migrants and resident waterbirds. Arrival of Palaearctic migrants does not seem to induce competition with residents.

**Jonasi G. 1994.** Concentration of White-backed Vultures at McIlwaine Game Park. *Honeyguide* 40: 93. (Dept of National Parks, PO Box BE 60, Belvedere, Harare, Zimbabwe)

About 280 *Gyps africanus* seen at, or mostly flying above, a zebra carcass in April 1993.

**Kalejta B. & Hockey P.A.R. 1994.** Distribution of shorebirds at the Berg River estuary, South Africa, in relation to foraging mode, food supply and environmental features. *Ibis* 136: 233-239. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Foraging densities of Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* and Grey Plovers *Pluvialis squatarola* at Berg River estuary compared. There is substantial overlap in feeding sites and methods.

**Kopij G. 1994.** Breeding bird community of the UOFS campus, Bloemfontein. *Mirafra* 11: 8-15. (Dept of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Orange Free State, PO Box 339, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa)

The 55 ha of the University campus found to contain 588 pairs of 22 species

by mapping census. 12 other species recorded.

**McNeil R., Diaz M.T. & Villeneuve A. 1994.** The mystery of shorebird oversummering: a new hypothesis. *Ardea* 82: 143-151. (Département de sciences biologiques, Université de Montréal, CP 6128, Succ. "A", Montréal, Québec, Canada H3C 3J7)

Possible relationship between trematode infestation and why some individuals, mainly first winter birds, remain in their 'winter' quarters through their first potential breeding season.

**Peet N.B. & Atkinson P.W. 1994.** The biodiversity and conservation of the birds of São Tomé and Príncipe. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 3: 851-867. (School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7TJ, UK)

Primary lowland forest is the only habitat on Sao Tomé containing all the endemics. Except for one area primary forest is not under immediate threat on either island, but needs protection. Secondary forest is widespread and important, both for endemics and as a potentially valuable economic resource.

**Perez Del Val J., Fa J.E., Castroviejo J. & Purroy F.J. 1994.** Species richness and endemism of birds in Bioko. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 3: 868-892. (Calle Estébanez, 7 5°G1, 28020 Madrid, Spain)

Status of 50 taxonomically unique forms described and a complete updated species list provided. Most unique forms are in montane areas and notes on abundance, altitude zonation and habitat use of the species are included.

**Urano E., Yamagishi S., Andrianarimisa A. & Andriatsarafana S. 1994.** Different habitat use among three sympatric species of couas *Coua cristata*, *C. coquereli* and *C. ruficeps* in western Madagascar. *Ibis* 136: 485-487. (Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Osaka City University, Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka 558, Japan)

Compares habitat use in dry forest. *C. coquereli* and *C. ruficeps* stayed mainly on the ground, and *C. cristata* exclusively higher than 5 m. *C. ruficeps* foraged more in more open areas of forest than *coquereli*.

**Wood P.A. 1994.** Red-billed Oxpecker survey in southern Mana Pools. *Honeyguide* 40: 16-19. (Dept of National Parks and Wildlife Management, Mana Pools National Park, Private Bag 2061, Karoi, Zimbabwe)

A survey of *Bupbagus erythrorhynchus* in Mana Pools National Park found 30-35 individuals feeding on wild buffalo and cattle. There is a demand for capture of these birds to restock private game farms but it is unknown how much effect this might have.

## Nests and Breeding Seasons

**Agutu J. 1994.** Abdim's Stork breeding in Maseno. *Kenya Birds* 2.2: 36-37. (Maseno School, PO Box 120, Maseno, Kenya)

*Ciconia abdimii* breeding in early 1993 laying eggs in January.

**Agutu J. 1994.** Verraux's Eagle Owl breeding at Maseno. *Kenya Birds* 2.2: 35. (address as above)

Notes on a nest of *Bubo lacteus* in a *Tecoma* tree.

**Akinpelu A.I. 1994.** Breeding seasons of three estrildid species in Ife-Ife, Nigeria. *Malimbus* 16: 94-99. (Dept of Zoology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife-Ife, Nigeria)

Breeding seasons of *Lonchura cucullata*, *L. bicolor* and *Estrilda melopoda* coincided with rainy seasons. Both *Lonchura* seasons were bimodal and *Estrilda* unimodal.

**Alexander-Marrack P. 1994.** Notes on a breeding colony of the African River Martin *Pseudocheilidon eurystomina* in Gabon. *Malimbus* 16: 1-9. (van Alkemadeaan 350/401, 2597 AS, Den Haag, Netherlands)

Observations of 'open-bill' display, social gathering of nest material and hole excavation are described. Predation by Palm-Nut Vulture *Gypobierax angolensis* is inferred.

**Beasley A. 1994.** Some observations of breeding activities of the White-throated Robin. *Honeyguide* 40: 75-77. (8 Camberley Court, Rotherfield Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex TN40 1SZ, UK)

Observations at nest of *Cossypha humeralis* in Botanic Garden in Harare.

**Bennun L. 1994.** The contribution of helpers to feeding nestlings in grey-capped social weavers *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*. *Anim. Behav.* 47: 1047-1056. (Dept of Ornithology, National Museums of Kenya, Box 40658, Nairobi, Kenya)

Helpers significantly increased feeding rate and breeders did not reduce their effort if helpers present. Helping more often occurred later in nesting cycle when demands were highest. Paired helpers only did so when they had no young themselves. Higher survival and

rate of weight increase of chicks are consequences.

**Couto J.T. & Couto F.M. 1994.** African Skimmers breeding on the highveld. *Honeyguide* 40: 95-96. (Dept of National Parks and Wildlife Management, PO Box BE 60, Belvedere, Harare, Zimbabwe)

*Rynchops flavirostris* found breeding on an island in Lake Manyame only exposed in a dry year.

**Du Plessis M.A. 1994.** Cooperative breeding in the Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*. *Ostrich* 65: 45-47. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Two instances of at least one extra male feeding young in a nest. Availability of potential nest sites may be limiting factor for breeding.

**Hanmer D.B. 1994.** Kittlitz's Plover in the Lower Shire valley of Malawi. *SAFRING News* 23: 3-9. (PO Box 3076, Paulington, Mutare, Malawi)

Breeding season of *Charadrius pecuarius* is April to October or November as in Zambia. Data on size, growth rates and breeding biology given.

**Harris D., Harris J., Harris C. & Goodwin W. 1994.** Observations on the Palmnut Vulture in South Africa. *Birding in Southern Africa* 46: 73-79. (PO Box 73, Mtunzini 3867, South Africa)

Detailed observations at a nest of *Gypobierax angolensis*.

**Harvey W.G. 1994.** Chestnut-banded Sandplover *Charadrius pallidus* breeding at Amboseli in 1993. *Scopus* 17: 139-140. (Box 40751, Nairobi, Kenya)

Small downy chick on 31 May 1993 north of Ol Turkai Lake.

**Harwin R.M. 1994.** The Pennant and Standard-winged Nightjars. *Honeyguide* 40: 26. (2 Norman Close, PO Chisipite, Harare, Zimbabwe)

Proved polygyny in *Macrodipteryx vexillaris* and *M. longipennis*.

**Iles D. 1994.** Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* breeding on Zanzibar. *Scopus* 18: 48. (Box 1199, Zanzibar, Tanzania)

Between 500 and 700 nests found on Chumbe Island in July 1994.

**Malan G. 1994.** Distribution of nests of Pied Crow *Corvus albus* on telephone poles in the Upper Karoo. *Ostrich* 65: 44-45. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Distribution may have behavioural basis and not random. Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides* also used old nests.

**Masterson C.L.H., Aust P. & Smith J.N. 1994.** Breeding density, clutch size and laying dates of Dabchicks around Falcon College, Esigodini. *Honeyguide* 40: 69-74. (Senior Natural History Society, Falcon College, Esigodini, Zimbabwe)

35 nests of *Tachybaptus ruficollis* on 4 small dams. Clutches laid in December (7), January (30) and February (5). Incubation 19 days.

**Mbidde J. 1994.** Astounding encounter on the nesting habits of the Pied Crow. *EANHS Bull.* 24: 11-12. (c/o EEC Delegation in Uganda, Box 5244, Kampala, Uganda)

Nests of *Corvus albus* consisting largely of wire.

**Parkes D.A. 1994.** Further on the differences between the nests of the Red-faced and Long-billed Cormorants [sic]. *Honeyguide* 40: 99-100. (PO Box A 674, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe)

Some notes on nest construction and sites of *Sylvietta whytii* and *S. rufescens*. On two occasions eggs of *Chrysococcyx klaas* were found in latter.

**Parkes D.A. 1994.** Slender-billed Honeyguide parasitism of Yellow White-eye. *Honeyguide* 40: 97. (PO Box A 674, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe)

From September to November of 1990-1992 86 nests of *Zosterops senegalensis* were examined. Some were being built, some had white or blue eggs, some had chicks. Two eggs of *Prodotiscus zambesiae* were found in separate nests.

**Randall R. & Herremans M. 1994.** Breeding of the Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula* along the Boro River in the central Okavango Delta (Botswana). *Ostrich* 65: 39-43. (c/o Box 266, Kasane, Botswana)

Breeding in reed bed, in a mixed colony with Rufous-bellied Herons *Butorides rufiventris*, started in May or June near peak flood. Success low and seemed to be choosy over sites.

**Ryan B. 1994.** Tourist threat to Skimmers? *Honeyguide* 40: 25. (PO Box 14, Bedfordview 2008, South Africa)

*Rynchops flaviventris* breeding on island in Zambezi potentially threatened by a safari camp.

**Skinner N. 1994.** The nest record scheme. *Babbler* 26-27: 36-27. (60 Gunton Drive, Lowestoft, UK; and Botswana Bird Club, Box 71, Gaborone, Botswana)

Report on the Botswana Nest Record Scheme for 1992-93.

**Smith J.N. & Duckworth G.M. 1994.** The influence of rainfall on the timing of laying for some seed-, nectar- and insect-eating birds at Falcon College, Esigodini. *Honeyguide* 40: 87-91. (Senior Natural History Society, Falcon College, Esigodini, Zimbabwe) Laying dates over 20 years summarised.

**Soroczynski M. 1994.** Nesting account of a pair of Lilac-breasted Rollers *Coracias caudata*. *Babbler* 26-27: 13-18. (PO Box 371, Jwaneng, Botswana)

Detailed notes on two broods from an artificial nest.

**Soroczynski M. 1994.** A breeding account of a Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* in the Jwaneng Game Park in September 1993. *Babbler* 26-27: 27-29. (PO Box 371, Jwaneng, Botswana)

Some notes from a nest with chick apparently raised entirely by female after male's accident.

**Triplet P. & Yesou P. 1994.** Winter breeding and distraction display of the Cream-coloured Courser. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 72: 32. (CNERA Avifaune Migratrice, Office National de la Chasse, 53 rue Russeil, F-44000, Nantes, France) A pair of *Cursorius cursor* laid eggs in December in Senegal. Distraction display showed similarities to Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius*.

**Vernon C.J. 1994.** Miombo Rock Thrush incubation period. *Honeyguide* 40: 98. (East London Museum, PO Box 11021, Southernwood, 5213 South Africa)

Incubation and fledging periods of *Monticola angolensis* are noted in *Ostrich* (39:21) and *Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr.* (77:162-189) despite Roberts's comment of unknown.

**Williams J. 1994.** Speckled Mousebird breeding at Ewanrigg Botanical Garden. *Honeyguide* 40: 27. (14 Harare Drive, Greystone Park, Harare, Zimbabwe) *Colius striatus* seems to be firmly established in area. Nest found 29 August 1993 and probably fledged by 8 September 1993.

**Wilson N. & Wilson V.G. 1994.** Description of the nest and eggs of the Lead-coloured Flycatcher *Mytoparus plumbeus* from the Kerio Valley, Kenya. *Scopus* 18: 60-61. (River View, 34 East End, Wolsingham, Co Durham DL13 3JX, UK)

In April 1992 and March-May 1993 nests found in holes in a dead tree and telegraph pole respectively at Lake Kamnorok.

**Wragg W.J. 1994.** Gymnogene nesting in Greendale, Harare. *Honeyguide* 40: 94-95. (15 Hugh Fraser Drive, Greendale, Harare, Zimbabwe)

Nest site of *Polyboroides typus* in suburban garden in 1993.

## Behaviour

**Davey P. 1994.** Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* behaviour. *Scopus* 18: 62. (Box 41822, Nairobi, Kenya)

Male presented regurgitated indigestible material from a small mammal predator (probably jackal) to female 3 times directly, but without response, and once to ground in front of here when she picked it up, crouched and allowed copulation.

**Dowsett-Lemaire F. 1994.** The song of the Seychelles Warbler *Acrocephalus sechellensis* and its African relatives. *Ibis* 136: 489-491. (Rue de Bois de Breux 194, B-4020 Jupille, Liège, Belgium)

Contrary to Catchpole & Komdeur (*Ibis* 135: 190-195) she suggests that phylogenetic characters seem to have a strong bearing on structure and frequency window of the songs whereas habitat appears insignificant.

**Green A.J., Young H.G., Rabarisoa R.G.M., Ravonjariisoa P. & Andrianarimisa A. 1994.** The dry season diurnal behaviour of the Madagascar Teal *Anas bernieri* at Lake Bemamba. *Wildfowl* 45: 124-133. (Estación Biológica de Doñana, Avda. de María Luisa s/n, Pabellón del Perú, 41013 Sevilla, Spain)

80% of daylight spent feeding with about two-thirds on foot, the rest swimming. Detailed notes on feeding and agonistic behaviour are given and it is a very different species to all the other six species of Anatidae present there.

**Harwin R.M. 1994.** Roosting by pair of Black Crows. *Honeyguide* 40: 28. (2 Norman Close, PO Chisipite, Harare, Zimbabwe)

*Corvus capensis* roosting on telephone wires.

**Herremans M., Hunter N.D. & Allan D. 1994.** The display of the Short-clawed Lark *Certhilauda chuana* and comments on the genus *Certhilauda*. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 27-31. (Dept of Wildlife and National Parks, PO Box 131, Gaborone, Botswana)

Describes the spectacular aerial display flight and partly as a consequence suggests restricting use of *Certhilauda* to the *curvirostris/chuana* assemblage.

**Irwin M.P.S. 1994.** Why is the Laughing Dove so careless and the Red-eyed Dove so careful? *Honeyguide* 40: 96-97. (PO Box BW 122, Borrowdale, Harare, Zimbabwe)

*Streptopelia senegalensis* frequently flies into windows and white walls but *S. semitorquata* does not seem to. Why?

**Kopij G. 1994.** Daily activity pattern of the Dabchick *Tachybaptus ruficollis* in the Orange Free State. *Mirafra* 11: 7. (Dept of Zoology and Entomology, University of Orange Free State, PO Box 339, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa)

A lot of activity at midday and after when most waterbirds are quiet on a small dam.

**Mundy P.J. 1994.** Crowned Crane - with murderous intent. *Honeyguide* 40: 24. (Dept of National Parks, PO Box 2283, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe)

*Balearica regulorum* in a fight lasting at least half an hour until observer intervened.

**Oakes E.J. & Barnard P. 1994.** Fluctuating asymmetry and mate choice in paradise whydahs, *Vidua paradisaea*: an experimental approach. *Anim. Behav.* 48: 937-943. (Dept of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS, UK)

Females preferred males with experimentally induced asymmetric tail ornaments not symmetric ones as found by other similar studies. Suggest that issue of how birds perceive length is crucial for ornament manipulation studies.

**Payne R.B. & Payne L.L. 1994.** Song mimicry and species associations of west-African indigobirds *Vidua* with Quail-finch *Oryzospiza atricollis*, Goldbreast *Amandava subflava* and Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri*. *Ibis* 136: 291-304. (Museum of Zoology and Department of Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, USA)

Most *Vidua* associate with *Lagonosticta* but these are newly described associations with other finches.

**Savalli U.M. 1994.** Tail length affects territory ownership in the yellow-shouldered widowbird. *Anim. Behav.* 48: 105-111. (Dept of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA)

*Euplectes macrourus* males with experimentally shortened tails were less

likely to get or retain territories than controls or those with experimentally lengthened ones. This was due to male-male competition for territories and not female choice.

## Food and Feeding

**Ashton E.H. 1994.** Suburban white-ant eaters. *Honeyguide* 40: 102. (13 Fitch Road, Kumalo, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe)

Several species noted eating flying termites in a suburban garden.

**Boobyer M.G. & Hockey P.A.R. 1994.** Dietary opportunism in the Karoo Korhaan: consequence of a sedentary lifestyle in an unpredictable environment. *Ostrich* 65: 32-38. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

15 stomachs of *Eupodotis vigorsii* analysed. 80% (by mass) was plant, 12% arthropod, rest gastroliths. Several taxa at low frequency but common if present suggesting opportunism and allowing bird to be sedentary.

**Boukhamza M., Hamdine W. & Thevenot M. 1994.** Données sur le régime alimentaire du Grand-Duc Ascalaphe *Bubo bubo ascalaphus* en milieu steppique (Ain Ouessera, Algérie). *Alauda* 62: 150-152. (Laboratoire d'Ornithologie et d'Ecologie des vertébrés, Institut d'Agronomie, Université de Tizi Ouzou, Hasnaoua, DZ-15000, Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria)

677 prey items in 269 Eagle Owl pellets in Algeria. Majority were mammals especially Gerbillidae. Birds and insects were a small portion of diet and reptiles and amphibians absent.

**Cordeiro N.J. 1994.** Hide and seek: Striped-cheeked Greenbul *Andropadus milanensis* opportunistically encounters and feeds on a chameleon. *Scopus* 18: 51-52. (3145 Canfield Avenue, #13, Los Angeles, California CA 90034, USA)

In July 1993 in North Pare Mountains of Tanzania.

**Couto F.M. & Couto J.T. 1994.** Openbill Storks feeding away from water. *Honeyguide* 40: 92-93. (PO Box BE 60, Belvedere, Harare, Zimbabwe)

*Anastomus lamelligerus* feeding on aestivating snails underground apparently finding them by tactile means.

**Crous R. 1994.** An incidence of bait fishing in the Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*. *Babbler* 26-27: 32. (Linyanti

Exploration, PO Box 22, Kasane, Botswana)

Placed insects on quiet lagoon waters 'baiting' for minnows.

**Hamer K.C. 1994.** Variability and stochasticity of meal-size and feeding frequency in the Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*. *Ibis* 136: 271-278. (Dept of Biological Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University, 10 Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH10 5DT, UK)

On Selvagem Grande chicks were weighed over 19 days. Changes suggested that food supply was not regulated by nutritional requirements. Adults delivered consistent amounts regardless of age of chicks and need for fat storage.

**Herremans M. & Herremans-Tonnoeyr D. 1994.** Persistent foraging on the ground by Chinspot Batises *Batis molitor*. *Babbler* 26-27: 18-19. (c/o PO Box 40210, Gaborone, Botswana)

Fed for over half an hour in chat-like manner in July 1993.

**Irwin M.P.S. 1994.** Black-eyed Bulbuls feeding on buildings. *Honeyguide* 40: 28-30. (PO Box BW 122, Borrowdale, Harare, Zimbabwe)

*Pycnonotus barbatus* often seen obtaining food from buildings especially insects from cobwebs and those attracted to lights.

**Lauterbach S. & Prinzing R. 1994.** [Nutrient physiology of the Blue-naped Mousebird (*Urocolius macrourus pulcher*).] *J. Orn.* 135: 577-586. (In German with English summary.) (Arbeitskreis Stoffwechselphysiologie, Fachbereich Biologie, Universität Frankfurt/Main, Siesmayerstr. 70, D-60323, Frankfurt, Germany)

Passage times of 4 experimental diets very fast with overall efficiency of around 70%.

**McCann K.I. & Kemp A.C. 1994.** Hunting behaviour of a fledgling Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides* and its mother during the post-fledging period. *Ostrich* 65: 1-6. (Zoology Dept, University of Witwatersrand, PO Wits, 2050 South Africa)

While changing from fledging to independence, fledgling increased hunting time from 0 - 67% per day and steadily increased strike success to 62%, took more vertebrate prey and used more difficult hunting methods. Reached independence about 26 days after fledging.



**Milewski A.V. 1994.** Is the diet of the Ostrich similar to that of Grant's Gazelle? *EANHS Bull.* 24: 12-15. (School of Field Studies, 16 Broadway, Beverly, MA 01915, USA)

*Struthio camelus* eats many of the same plants and bits of plants as *Gazella granti*. List of contents of 15 stomach given.

**Milton S.J., Dean W.R.J. & Siegfried W.R. 1994.** Food selection by the Ostrich in southern Africa. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.* 58: 234-248. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Green annual grasses and forbs preferred by *Struthio camelus* when available in savanna, desert grassland, arid shrubland and fynbos. Otherwise leaves, flowers and fruits from succulents and woody plants. No dead material or plants toxic to mammals. Birds can be destructive to arid rangeland at high densities.

**Nogales M. & Hernandez E.C. 1994.** Interinsular variations in the spring and summer diet of the Raven *Corvus corax* in the Canary Islands. *Ibis* 136: 441-447. (Departamento de Biología Animal (Zoología), Universidad de La Laguna, 38206 Tenerife, Canary Islands)

Analysis of 2315 pellets from all islands of group. Omnivorous but the animal component more frequent on drier islands and plants more on the wetter. Composition of plant diet varied from one island to another and birds play an important role in seed dispersal.

**Peddy D.A. 1994.** Bateleur scavenging Red Rock Rabbit. *Honeyguide* 40: 94. (c/o Matetsi River Ranch, PO Box 171, Hwange, Zimbabwe)

*Terathopius ecaudatus* eating road casualty *Pronolagus randensis*. Probably new prey item for eagle and range extension for rabbit.

**Pryce E. 1994.** Grey Louries *Corythaixoides concolor* feeding on clay. *Babbler* 26-27: 23-24. (PO Box 12, Shakawe, Botswana)

Up to 32 birds feeding on clay in eroded bank. Defended resource against doves.

**Ramos J.A. 1994.** Fern frond feeding by the Azores Bullfinch. *J. Avian Biol.* 23: 344-347. (Departamento de Oceanografia e Pescas, Universidade dos Açores 9900 Horta, Faial, Açores, Portugal)

*Pyrrhula murina* eats fern fronds when other food is scarce, and it is highly selective within and between species. It is

suggested that nutrients and secondary compounds cause this.

**Treca B. 1994.** Des pythons mangeurs de canards. *Malimbus* 16: 123-124. (ORSTOM, BP 1386, Dakar, Senegal)

Two of five python stomachs contained Pintails *Anas acuta* in Djoudj National Park in January 1994.

**Van Zyl A.J. 1994.** A comparison of the Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* in South Africa and Europe. *Bird Study* 41: 124-130. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

In flat and hilly areas of eastern Cape Province a much higher proportion of the diet was arthropod (especially Orthoptera and Arachnida) than in western European populations for both breeding and non-breeding birds.

**Wragg W.J. 1994.** Fish Eagle taking Jacana. *Honeyguide* 40: 94. (15 High Fraser Drive, Greendale, Harare, Zimbabwe)

*Haliaeetus vocifer* killed and ate *Actophilornis africanus* at Nkupe camp in Zambezi valley.

**Yalden D.W. 1994.** A note on the diet of Barn Owls *Tyto alba* at Djoudj, Senegal. *Malimbus* 16: 53-55. (Dept of Environmental Biology, The University, Manchester M13 9PL, UK)

Most of 79 items from pellets were multimammate rats *Mastomys natalensis*, a rodent commensal with man. 4 other rodents and a passerine bird recorded.

## Movements

**Ash J.S. 1994.** Bird-ringing recoveries from Ethiopia: II. *Scopus* 17: 113-118. (Godshill Wood, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 2LR, UK)

Updates his 1981 report (*Scopus* 5: 85-101), giving details of recoveries from all potential sources to and from Ethiopia and Eritrea of 29 species.

**Bishop D. 1994.** Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* influx in southeastern Botswana in winter 1993. *Babbler* 26-27: 19-20. (PO Box 808, Gaborone, Botswana)

May to August 1993 with up to 161 birds counted in July within 50 km of Gaborone.

**Brooke R.K. 1994.** Southern African bred European Bee-Eaters in Zimbabwe. *Honeyguide* 40: 97. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Because of moult regimes present, all except one (a male in September 1950) specimen records of *Merops apiaster* in Zimbabwe are Palaearctic bred not South African bred.

**Harwin R.M. 1994.** Movements and staying power of Lesser Flamingos. *Honeyguide* 40: 23. (2 Norman Close, PO Chisipite, Harare, Zimbabwe)

Flock of 200 *Phoeniconaias minor* seen at Lake Chivero in January 1965 implied a continuous flight of 36 hours at least.

**Herremans M. & Herremans-Tonnoeyr D. 1994.** Evidence for the existence of movements of Redfaced Mousebirds *Colius indicus* in the Kalahari. *Babbler* 26-27: 7-10. (Dept of Wildlife and National Parks, PO Box 131, Gaborone, Botswana)

Fairly erratic presence of the species in all major habitat types – from point-transect.

**Kalejita B., Underhill L.G. & Summers R.W. 1994.** Leaving no stone unturned – the secrets of Turnstone migration. *Birding in Southern Africa* 46: 23-27.

(Avian Demography Unit, Dept of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

A review of the migration patterns of *Arenaria interpres*.

**Oatley T.B. 1994.** Selected recoveries from Safring: July 1993 - December 1993. *SAFRING News* 23: 29-37. (SAFRING, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Details recoveries of 52 species.

**Stanford C.G. 1994.** Notes on raptor migration in western Tanzania. *Scopus* 18: 1-5. (Dept of Anthropology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0032, USA)

Reports passage along eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika from September to mid November 1991 and 1992. Buzzards *Buteo buteo* were the commonest with a few hundred passing especially in the first three weeks of October.

**Van Zyl A.J. 1994.** Sex-related movement in adult Rock Kestrels in the eastern Cape Province, South Africa. *Wilson Bull.* 106: 145-148. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Females of *Falco rupicoloides* left territories before males, were away longer and returned later although some individuals were resident.

## Taxonomy

**Appert O. 1994.** Is there a representative of the Oriolidae in Madagascar? – a contribution to the systematics of the genus *Tylas*. *Orn. Beob.* 91: 255-267. (In German with English summary.) (Höchweid, CH-6106, Werthenstein, Switzerland)

Plumage, behaviour, voice and nest building all point to *Tylas* being in the Oriolidae and not Vangidae.

**Clancey P.A. 1994.** The austral races of the Afrotropical Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis* Cuvier, 1816. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 48-55. (Durban Natural Sciences Museum, PO Box 4085, Durban 4000, South Africa)

Recognises 4 subspecies including the new *C. p. crepusculans*.

**Clancey P.A. 1994.** The status of *Nectarinia olivacea* (Smith), 1840; a unitary species of two polytypic allopecies. *Le Gerfaut* 82-83: 25-29. (Address as above)

Two forms on east-west line apparently do not intergrade. Small hybrid zone now isolated from all other parts of range. Proposes that the western form (females without yellow pectoral tufts) be *N. obscura*, a name given by Jardine 1843.

**Clancey P.A. 1994.** The Ground Thrush *Zootera guttata* (Vigors 1831) in the southern afrotropics. *Le Gerfaut* 82-83: 45-50. (address as above)

The race *Z.g. belcheri* from southern Malawi now found to extend to southern Zululand leaving *Z.g. guttata*, the larger form and with more ventral spotting, only to the south of this.

**Clancey P.A. 1994.** An additional subspecies of the Croaking Cisticola from the temperate uplands of southern Africa. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 86-88. (address as above)

*Cisticola natalensis vigilax* described from uplands of Transvaal and Zimbabwe.

**Clancey P.A. 1994.** Subspeciation in *Erythropygia coryphoeus* (Vieillot) of the southwest arid zone of Africa. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 224-229. (address as above)

Recognises four subspecies of the Karoo Scrub Robin.

**Clancey P.A. 1994.** The type locality of *Nectarinia senegalensis gutturalis* (Linnaeus), 1766. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 278-179. (address as above)

Considerable confusion in the past

over provenance of this subspecies, but author proposes that Maputo district in southern Mozambique is likely to be the best compromise.

**Crowe T.M., Essop M.F., Allan D.G., Brooke R.K. & Komen J. 1994.** 'Overlooked' units of comparative and conservation biology: a case of a small African bustard, the Black Korhaan *Eupodotis afra*. *Ibis* 136: 166-175. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

Differences in habitats, plumage, morphometrics, displays, vocalisations of males, mitochondrial DNA and possibly social system strongly suggest that Black-winged Korhaan *Eupodotis afra afra* of southwestern South Africa and White-winged Korhaan *E. a. afroides* of much of the rest of southern Africa are distinct species.

**Dickerman R.W. 1994.** Notes on birds from Africa with descriptions of three new subspecies. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 274-278. (Dept of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, USA)

Collections from Dickerman *et al* (*Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 267-274) caused some further nomenclatural problems in other areas than Liberia for six species.

**Dinesen L., Lehmerg T., Svendsen J.O., Hansen L.A. & Fjeldsa J. 1994.** A new genus and species of perdicine bird (Phasianidae, Percidinae) from Tanzania: a relict form with Indo-Malayan affinities. *Ibis* 136: 2-11. (Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Universitet Parken 15, DK-2100, Copenhagen 0, Denmark)

*Xenoperdix udzunguensis* discovered in July 1991 from forest in the Udzungwa Mountains in Tanzania. A full discussion of its affinities is included.

**Erard C. & Morel G.J. 1994.** La sous-espèce du Cocheris modeste *Galerida modesta* en Sénégalie. *Malimbus* 16: 56-57. (Laboratoire d'Ornithologie, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 55 rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France)

The Sun Lark of the sahel zone in northern Cameroon, mid Mali and east Senegal appears to be *G.m. modesta* not *G.m. nigrita*. The race also occurs in Ghana, Nigeria and Burkino Faso.

**Herremans M. 1994.** A hybrid pair of Rock Pigeon *Columba guinea* x Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* in Gaborone. *Babbler* 26-27: 25-27. (Box 131, Gaborone, Botswana)

Hybrids may be recognised by usually having red orbital skin of Rock Pigeon and intermediate form of huckles, but must wait till birds are adult.

**Krajewski C. & Fetzner Jr J.W. 1994.** Phylogeny of cranes (Gruiformes: Gruidae) based on cytochrome-B DNA sequences. *Atuk* 111: 351-365. (Dept of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6501, USA)

The two Crowned Cranes *Balearica (pavonina and regulorum)* are as distinct as most pairs of crane species. Otherwise differences coincide more or less with current taxonomy.

**Louette M. & Herroelen P. 1994.** A revised key for *Cercococcyx* cuckoos, taxonomic status of *C. montianus partulus* and its occurrence in Zaire. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 114: 144-149. (Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika, 3080 Tervuren, Belgium)

A revision and notes on recognising the four species.

**Ryan P.G., Moloney C.L. & Hudon J. 1994.** Color variation and hybridisation among *Nesospiza* buntings on Inaccessible Island, Tristan da Cunha. *Atuk* 111: 314-327. (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa)

No overlap in colour between upland and lowland morphs of *N. acunbae* on Inaccessible and they are distinct from hatching. Upland birds have same pigments as lowland ones but simply three times as concentrated. Individuals largely sedentary leading to parapatric dispersion.

## Identification

**Bennun L. 1994.** Identification first aid ... Kakamega Greenbuls. *Kenya Birds* 2.2: 48-52. (PO Box 40658, Nairobi, Kenya)

Identification notes on 12 species of Pycnonotidae in Kakamega Forest in western Kenya.

**Chandler R.J. & Wilds C. 1994.** Little, Least and Saunders's Terns. *Brit. Birds* 87: 60-66. (2 Rusland Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8AU, UK)

*Sterna saundersi* usually very difficult to distinguish from *S. albifrons* and can only be done when birds are breeding. Photos included.

**Chittenden H. 1994.** On a singularly tawny-coloured juvenile of the Diederik Cuckoo. *Birding in Southern Africa* 46: 86. (PO Box 360, Eshowe 3815, South Africa)

A very rufous juvenile *Chrysococcyx caprius* seen and photographed in Kruger National Park in May 1993. Does a hepatic phase occur albeit very rarely?

**Payne R.B. 1994.** The species of indigobirds in Zimbabwe. *Honeyguide* 40: 78-86. (Museum of Zoology and Dept of Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, USA)

4 species known for certain with *Vidua chalybeata* (Village Indigobird) the commonest. Other species are possible.

**Shirihai H. 1994.** Field identification of Dunn's, Bar-tailed Desert and Desert Larks. *Dutch Birding* 16: 1-9. (PO Box 4168, Eilat 88102, Israel)

One plate and six photos of *Eremalauda dumni*, *Ammomanes cincturus* and *A. deserti*.

**Shirihai H. 1994.** Field characters of Senegal Thick-knee. *Brit. Birds* 87: 183-184. (Address as above).

*Burbinus senegalensis* best distinguished from *B. oedicnemus* by wing coverts but individual variation causes problems. Four photos included.

**Wilson N. 1994.** Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* with a white eye-ring from the Kerio Valley, Kenya. *Scopus* 18: 59-60. (River View, 34 East End, Wolsingham, Co Durham DL13 3JX, UK)

Several birds involved in the northern Kerio Valley.

### Site Guides

**Anderson M.D. & Koen J.H. 1994.** Kamfers Dam: a jewel in an arid land. *Birding in Southern Africa* 46: 49-53. (Cape Nature Conservation and Museums, Private Bag X6102, Kimberley 8300, South Africa)

Description of site at convergence of arid karoo, sandy Kalahari and Orange

Free State grasslands on the northern outskirts of Kimberley town.

**Bennun L. 1994.** Birding in ... Kakamega. *Kenya Birds* 2.2: 19-27. (PO Box 40658, Nairobi, Kenya)

A detailed look at where to go, how to get there and where to stay if you wish to visit Kakamega Forest in western Kenya.

**Chittenden H. & Pollard C. 1994.** Kazungula. Where west meets east and north meets south. *Birding in Southern Africa* 46: 47-49. (Box 360, Eshowe 3815, Zimbabwe)

Description of site in north west Zimbabwe.

**Noeske A. & Pfü Tzke S. 1994.** The Cape Verde Islands: tropical birding in the western Palearctic. *Birding World* 7: 152-160. (no address given)

Report of three-week trip in March 1993 with information on sites and birds.

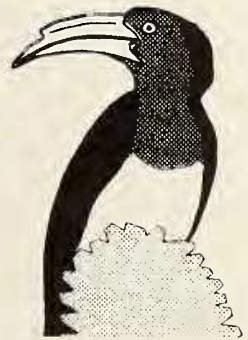


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